TEENAGE DRIVERS (15-19 years)

Did you know that in 2000. . .

- ◆ Teenage drivers represent 9% of the licensed drivers in Utah, yet they were involved in approximately one-third (31.2%) of all motor vehicle crashes in Utah.
- ♦ Approximately 1 out of 5 (19.8%) fatal crashes in Utah involved a teenage driver.

Leading Collision Descriptions of Teenage Driver Crashes, Utah 2000

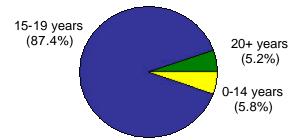
All Teenage Driver Crashes

- 1. Rear End (32.8%)
- 2. Broadside (29.3%)
- 3. Other (23.8%)
- 4. Side Swipe (6.4%)
- 5. Single Vehicle Rollover (4.8%)

Fatal Teenage Driver Crashes

- 1. Single Vehicle Rollover (30.2%)
- 2. Broadside (23.8%)
- 3. Other (14.3%)
- 4. Side Swipe (12.7%)
- 5. Pedestrian/Bicyclist Crash (9.5%)
- Single vehicle rollovers were 9 times more likely to result in at least one fatality than other collision types.
- Nearly two-thirds (62.1%) of all teenage driver crashes were rear-end or broadside collisions.
- Single vehicle rollovers and broadside collisions represented over one-half (54.0%) of the fatal teenage driver crashes.

Age of Crash Occupants (Including Driver) in Teenage Driven Vehicles, Utah 2000



Not surprisingly, most occupants of vehicles driven by teenage drivers that were involved in a crash were between the ages of 15 to 19 years (87.4%).

Fatalities Associated with Teenage Driven Vehicles, Utah 2000



Crashes where the teenage driven vehicle contained four or more occupants were 5 times more likely to be fatal than crashes involving teenage driven vehicles with fewer occupants.

Top 5 Driving Factors that Contributed to Teenage Driver Crashes, Utah 2000

All Teenage Driver Crashes

- 1. Improper Lookout (25.9%)
- 2. Failed to Yield the Right of Way (16.8%)
- 3. Speed Too Fast (13.6%)
- 4. Following Too Closely (12.5%)
- 5. Other Improper Driving (8.9%)

Fatal Teenage Driver Crashes

- 1. Speed Too Fast (22.9%)
- 2. Other Improper Driving (21.4%)
- 3. Improper Lookout (11.4%)
- 4. Asleep/Fatigued (10.0%)
- 5. Drove Left of Center (7.1%)



- Speed too fast (22.9%) accounted for nearly one-quarter of the contributing factors associated with fatal teenage driver crashes.
- Less than 2% of teenage driver crashes had a contributing factor of "had been drinking," "under the influence of drugs," or "DUI."

Time of Day Teenage Driver Crashes Occurred, Utah 2000 Time of Day Teenage Driver Crashes Occurred, Utah 2000 Time of Day Teenage Driver Crashes Occurred, Utah 2000

Teenage driver crashes peaked during after school hours (3:00 pm to 5:00 pm). Other small peaks occurred when these drivers were most likely going to school (7:00 am), and going to lunch (12:00 pm).

Counties with the Highest Percentage of Crashes Involving Teenage Drivers

County	All Crashes	Teenage Drivers	% Involving Teen Drivers	County	All Crashes	Teenage Drivers	% Involving Teen Drivers
Washington	1,599	609	38.1%	Utah	8,044	2,781	34.6%
Cache	1,985	744	37.5%	Uintah	497	161	32.4%
Davis	4,669	1,692	36.2%	Sanpete	392	124	31.6%
Weber	4,583	1,603	35.0%	Statewide	53,151	16,578	31.2%

Graduated Driver Licensing Law

A graduated driver licensing law was enacted to address the concern of teenage driving and crashes. Graduated licensing regulations are in place for new drivers under the age of 18 years. First-time teenage drivers who apply for a drivers license in Utah must complete the following three steps to obtain a license:

Step 1. Obtain an instruction permit, which allows driving with a certified driving instructor, complete a driver education course and pass a written exam.

Step 2. Complete 30 hours of behind-the-wheel driving (at least 10 hours after dark) with a parent, guardian, or licensed over-21-year-old spouse.

Step 3. Complete a driving test (or tests) and obtain a provisional (under 21 years) "D" (passenger vehicle), or "M" (passenger vehicle plus motorcycle) license. The provisional license shows "under 21," has a distinctive color, and allows a lower threshold of points/citations before sanctioning compared to regular licenses.

Night-time Restrictions

Anyone under the age of 17 years may not drive from midnight to 5:00 am except: 1) with an over-21-year old licensed driver; 2) for employment, or going to or from employment; 3) going to or from a religious or a school activity; 4) in a supervised agricultural operation; or 5) in an emergency.

Passenger Restrictions

For the first six months of licensure, teenage drivers can only drive other teens if there is an over-21-year-old driver in the front seat of the vehicle. Teenage drivers can drive themselves or family members without this restriction.

Exceptions: Teenage drivers can drive teenage occupants to or from school, school activities, church activities, or agricultural work if he/she has a signed note from his/her parent or guardian.

Seatbelt Restrictions

All occupants under the age of 19 years must be properly restrained in a motor vehicle. This is a primary law which means a person may be stopped by a law enforcement officer solely for that offense. If found in violation of this law, a person may be issued a citation and subject to a fine of not more than \$45.